

TRIUMPH OVER TRIBULATION

Celebrating the Life and Legacy

Mother Grace L. Gregory



saturday
March 10, 2007
12:00pm



Sunrise

Jan. 14, 1919



Sunset

Feb. 28, 2007

Philemon Missionary Baptist Church

246 Shephard Avenue

Newark, NJ 07112

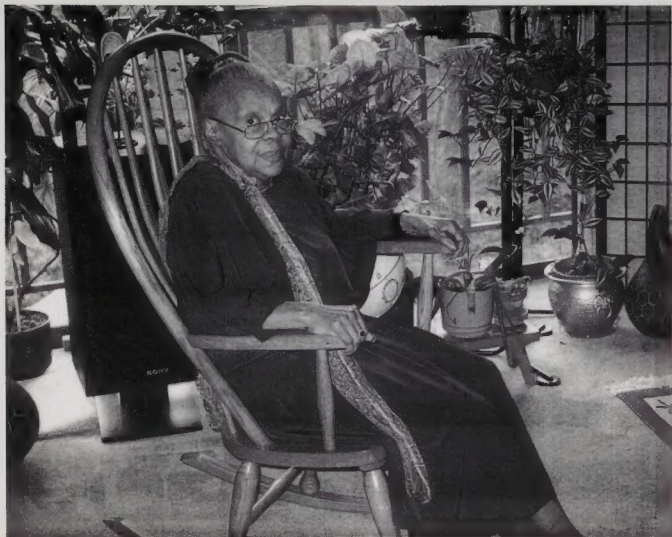
Rev. Edward A. Allen, Sr., Pastor

Professional Services rendered by

Hari P. Close Funeral Home—PO Box 601—Baltimore, Maryland

and

James E. Churchman Jr. Funeral Home—345 13th Ave.—Newark, NJ





Order of Service

Mother Grace L. Gregory

Officiating:	Rev. Edward A. Allen, Sr.
Organist	Prof. Paul Gainer
Congregational Hymn	"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"
Selection	The Genesis Ensemble
	Scripture Readings
Old Testament	Rev. Dr. Russell E. Groves Canaan Baptist Church Baltimore, Maryland
New Testament	Pastor Daryl Alexander Good News Sounds Of Pentecost Ministries Newark, NJ
Selection	Sis. Dorothy Catus Woodstock, Maryland
Invocation	Rev. Michael Johnson
Selection	Lady Francine Finley
Acknowledgements	Rev. Lillian Massey-Jones Raleigh, North Carolina
Obituary	Sis. Yvette Glover
Selection	Sis. Michelle White
Remarks (Please limit remarks to two (2) minutes)	Whosoever will
Selection	The Genesis Ensemble
Eulogy	Rev. Edward A. Allen, Sr.
Viewing (immediate family only)	James E. Churchman, Jr. Funeral Home
Benediction	Rev. Edward A. Allen, Sr.
Recessional	
Interment	Cloverleaf Memorial Park Woodbridge, NJ





Obituary of "Mother" Grace L. Gregory

IN THE BEGINNING:

Mrs. Grace L. Gregory was born in upstate NY, to Lena and Thomas Moore, on January 14, 1919. She was immediately adopted, relocated to, raised and nurtured in a Christian home in Newark, NJ, by her adoptive parents, the late Pattie and Sidney Boynton. She is predeceased by her loving companion, Rev. John H. Shorter, a grandson, Gregory McKissic, and a great-grandchild, LaShonda Harris.

HER EDUCATION:

"Mother", as she was lovingly called by not only her biological family, but by church, extended family, and others who had the pleasure of knowing and loving her, was educated in the Newark Public School system and graduated from Franklin Elementary and Barringer High School, where she served as the school band and orchestra pianist. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Newark's Rutgers University, and her Masters Degree in Counseling, from Trenton State College, Trenton, NJ. At the time of her demise, "Mother" was 15 credits short of receiving her Doctorate Degree.

An avid lover of music, as well as a strong and staunch proponent of knowledge and education, "Mother" was known not only as one of Newark's most notable musicians, but for continually taking graduate and undergraduate courses. One of life's lessons she instilled into her children was, **"You're never too old to learn"**.

HER RELIGION

"Mother" joined, was baptized and began her spiritual and religious training at Newark's Bethsaida Baptist Church, under the leadership of the late Rev. Curtis Wilcher. During her years at Bethsaida Baptist where, she raised her children, "Mother" faithfully served as a Sunday School Scholar, was a member of the Baptist Young Peoples Union and as one of the church musicians. At the time of her passing, she was a member of the Philemon Missionary Baptist Church, Newark, NJ, where the Rev. Edward A. Allen, Sr. is pastor.

Until she was unable to continue her lifelong commitment to always being an active and supportive church member, "Mother", whenever visiting her family in Maryland, and after relocating there, made a point of attending worship services at the Long Reach Church of God (later renamed Celebration Church City of Champions) pastured by Dr. Robert S. Davis, Jr., Pastor, Dr. Robert S. Davis, Sr., Covering Bishop. She was also embraced by, "adopted" into, and appointed "Church Mother" of the Healing Heart Ministries, in Columbia, MD, where the Reverends Andre and Maggie Stewart, co-pastor.

"Mother", a deeply devout Christian woman, diligently worked a lifetime to make heaven her home, and prayed that her family would someday meet her again, in Paradise.

HER FAMILY

On February 5, 1937, "Mother" united in holy matrimony with the late Alexander "Sandy" Gregory, at the Queen of Angels Roman Catholic Church, in Newark, NJ. God blessed this union with four very devoted, dedicated and loving children: Alexia P., Flora L.P., Terry L. and Joan E., who between them contributed to her zeal and passion for life by blessing her with a total of six adored grandchildren. Her grandchildren provided her with joy and 22 great grandchildren, who in turn enriched her life with 3 great-great grandchildren.





Mothers' family meant everything to her, and always came first in her life, only after God. She always instilled in her children the fact that they should always "stick by, and always be there for one another" and most importantly, that "a family that prays together, stays together".

HER PASSION



After God, and then her children, came **Mothers'** passionate love of music. Well known, loved, respected and revered as an accomplished musician throughout Newark, NJ and the metropolitan area, "**mother**", over the many years, beginning at Bethsaida Baptist when she was in High School, served as pianist/organist/Musical Director in many of the area churches, including Philemon Missionary Baptist, New Antioch Baptist, Morning Star Baptist, and the New Eden Baptist Church (where she was a charter member) all located in the city of Newark, NJ. She also served as organist at the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Orange, NJ for many years.

HER WORK

In addition to her music ministry, and other church work, **mother** did extensive missionary and volunteer work, including assisting the late Rev. John H. Shorter, of Newark's New Eden Baptist Church, in his visits to the sick and shut-in, homes of parishioners and neighbors, investigating their problems in better housing and employment opportunities.

Not only was **mother** a great church worker, was a former Newark based beautician during the 1940's and early '50's, and was proprietress of the "Poro Beauty Shop", later renamed "Pattie Pink Room", in honor of her mother, and located at 178 West Market Street in Newark, NJ. She was a certified Notary Public from 1946, until she relocated to Columbia, MD, in 1994. **mother** was the recipient of many recognition and service awards, and was well loved and respected by not only her peers, but also her contemporaries, church-fellows, and extended family.

In 1985, **mother** and her daughter Flora, co-founded "Guiding Light, Inc.", a tutoring and counseling agency, aiding children with their schoolwork, assisting adults who wanted to improve their reading skills, counseling those with problems and working with the community at large. **mother** was a "people person", always willing and ready to help man, woman or child, in solving any problems they may have encountered.

mother Gregory was a federal government employee for approximately 40 years, prior to her retirement. During those years, she employed by the Civilian Department of the Army, the Civilian Navy Department, the Department of Defense, the VA Hospital in Orange, NJ, and finally retired from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Newark, NJ office, in 1994, at the age of 75, where she served as a Housing Counselor.

A NEW LIFE

Upon her retirement, **mother** relocated to Columbia, MD, to live with her youngest daughter, Joan. Almighty God, in His awesome and infinite wisdom, decided to call **mother** home to live in Paradise, on February 28, 2007.

His golden chariot arrived to take her to her Mansion In The Sky, at 11:45AM.





AFFILIATIONS

"Mother" was a life member of the N.A.A.C.P. of "Orange & Maplewood, NJ, the Newark Urban League, the National Association of Colored Women's Club, the New Jersey State Federation of Colored Women, the Professional Ladies of Martin Luther King Club (duties of which are to scout around and seek out people in the minority groups who could not afford to continue their education and to give them scholarships), the Sociology-Anthropology Club of Rutgers University (Newark and New Brunswick, NJ), and other endeavors.

A NEW BEGINNING

As she enters the hereafter and embarks upon her new career, as a newly appointed musician for the Heavenly Choir, "Mother" Gregory, a living legend, leaves not to mourn her passing, but to cherish her loving memory while relishing the joy of her living, her three daughters, Alexia P. McKissic of Columbia, MD., Flora L.P. Hamlett of East Orange, NJ, and Joan E. Gregory of Columbia, MD; one son, Terry L. Gregory of East orange, NJ, and one son-in-law, Edward Ray Hamlett of Irvington, NJ. Also left to cherish her loving memory are her six grandchildren; April M. (and her husband Avon) Boykins, of Joppa, MD, Candy C. Harris, of Duluth, GA, Lynn A. McKissic- Fortune of Columbia, MD., Xanthia Hamlett of Norcross, GA, Edward Ray Hamlett II of Hillside, NJ and Nicole R. Gregory of Newark, NJ, 22 great-grandchildren, 3 great-great-grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews.

Along with her devoted immediate family, "Mother" Gregory leaves to cherish her memory, her "extended" family, including her "adopted" children, Sylvia and the Rev. Arthur Jackson of Piscataway, NJ, Barbara Kukla of West Orange, NJ, Lenwood Green, of Baltimore, MD, her caretakers Charles Brooks, Carmita Ridge and Lorna Perry, all of Fulton, MD, and her loving church families.

OH YES SHE'S GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN.
YOU SEE, SHE'LL ALWAYS BE A PART OF US.

This message was found in "Mothers" bible

June 11, 1989

* A message to my children:

Love & kisses to my 4 children, my grandchildren, great grands, and their offspring, down through the generations. You will never know how much I loved you and have prayed to GOD ever since I became a mother, to bless our blood and save our souls for generations, until Jesus returns, so we can spend eternity with the Lord. I love you all and thank GOD for giving me the responsibility of raising you, Alexia, Flora, Terry and Joan. You have been wonderful children."

Love Mother





The Gregory Family

WISHES TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE AND HEARTFELT GRATITUDE FOR ALL OF YOUR PRAYERS, KINDNESSES, FLOWERS, CARDS AND ALL OTHER EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE. WE OFFER TO YOU ON BEHALF OF "MOTHER", WHO WE FEEL WOULD OFFER IT TO ALL OF US, THE FOLLOWING:

THE LAST REQUEST

Please don't say I gave up, just say that I gave in
 Don't say I lost the battle, for it was God's war to win
 Please don't say how good I was, but say I did my best.
 Just say I tried to do what's right, to give the most I could, not less.
 Please don't give me wings or halos, that's for God to do.
 I want no more than I deserve; no extras, just my due.
 Please don't give me flowers, or talk in real hushed tones.
 Don't be concerned about me now, I'm well with God, I've made it home.
 Don't talk about what I could have been, it's over and it's done.
 Just see to all my family's needs, especially, the little ones.
 When you draw a picture of me, don't draw me as a saint..
 I've done some good, I've done some wrong, so use all the colors you can paint.
 Not just bright and light tones, use some gray and dark.
 In fact, don't put me down on canvas, paint me in your heart.
 Remember all the good times, remember all the bad.
 For life is full of many things, some happy and some sad.
 But if you must do something, then I have one request;
 Forgive me for the wrong I've done and with the love that's left.
 Thank God for my soul's resting
 Thank God for I've been blessed
 Thank God for all who loved me
 Praise God, who loved me best!

Our message to Mother

Dear Mother:

This is the hardest letter any of us has ever written you, it is not a good-by, only a farewell, until we meet again. We could not have asked for a better Mother, mentor, teacher or friend. We thank Almighty God for lending you to us, and allowing you to remain in our lives, until He felt we could make it on our own. We thank you for all you taught us, and the love you always gave us. Life will be hard knowing you are no longer with us physically. However, we know your spirit will remain with us, until we join you in that heavenly city. Be assured that we realize that although we loved you, God loved you best, and that you were only on loan to us, until He called you home. Rest in peace.

Lovingly submitted by
 Your Children

Anonymous

We thank all of you

